

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
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C O N F I D E N T I A L BELGRADE 616

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT BU YO
SUBJ: BQLNRIAN/YUGOSLAV RELATIONS

REF: (A) MUNICH 383 (B) SOFIA 61

1. IN RESPONSE TO INQUIRY POSED REF A, WE APPROACHED UPI CORRESPONDENT HERE ON STORY CONCERNING DETERIORATION IN BULGARIAN/YUGOSLAV RELATIONS. UPI CORRESPONDENT SAID HIS YUGOSLAV LOCAL EMPLOYEE HAD BEEN GIVEN THE STORY BY YUGOSLAV FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL AND THUS IT WAS AN OBVIOUS PLANT. HIS OWN JUDGEMENT WAS THAT TO CHARACTERIZE YUGOSLAV-BULGARIAN RELATIONS AS BEING AT THEIR LOWEST EBB SINCE 1948 HAS HYPERBOLE.

2. WE HAVE CONFIRMED WITH WARSAW PACT DIPLOMATS AND YUVEOSLAV FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS THAT (PER REF B) BULGARIAN DELEGATION IS EXPECTED HERE SHORTLY. WE WERE TOLD THAT THIS IS RESULT OF YUGOSLAV INITIATIVE AND INVITATION. THERE IS STILL SOME LWUEAPJON ABOUT LEVEL AT WHICH THESE TALKS WILL TAKE PLACE, WITH FSFA DEPUTY SECRETARY MOJSOV (WHO CONDUCTED EARLIER ROUND) NOT AVAILABLE DUE TO UN
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ACTIVITIES. THUS YUGOSLAVS PROPOSING LOWER LEVEL THAN BULGARIANS WOULD LIKE. NO ONE HERE EXPECTS MUCH FROM THESE TALKS.

3. WE AGREE WITH THRUST OF REPORTING FROM BOTH SOFIA AND MUNICH THAT WHILE RELATIONS BETWEEN BULGARIA AND YUGOSLAVIA ARE QHNV ODNAND MAY WELL HAVE DETERIORATED SOMEWHAT IN

RECENT MONTHS THEY ARE NOT NOW IN A STATE OF CRISIS. AMONG FACTORS BOTHERING YUGOSLAVS, THEY BELIEVE THERE HAS BEEN RETROGRESSION IN TREATMENT OF "MACEDONIANS" IN BULGARIA. WITNESS LATEST CENSUS VS. EARLIER ONES WHICH INCLUDED MACEDONIANS AS CATEGORY. THEY ARE PROVOKED CONTINUALLY BY BULGARIAN WRITING ABOUT WORLD WAR II. AND AMONG CURRENT FACTORS EXACERBATING RELATIONSHIP ARE BULGARIAN INTRANSIGENCE OVER A SECOND MEETING ON BALKAN COOPERATION, AND A STILL NOT TOTALLY FORMED YUGOSLAV VIEW THAT SOVIETS AND THEREFORE BULGARIANS ARE TAKING A HARDER LINE IN RELATIONS AMONG SOCIALIST COUNTRIES (PROLETARIAN INTERNATIONALISM) AND IN PUTTING PRESSURE ON THE NON-ALIGNED (SOVIET & CUBAN ACTIVITIES IN AFRICA CREATING SPLITS WITHIN MOVEMENT). THIS ANNIVERSARY YEAR -- 100TH FOR SAN STEFANO, 30TH FOR BREAK WITH COMINFORM, 25TH SINCE STALIN'S DEATH AND 10TH FOR CZECH INVASION PLUS THE STATE OF BREZHNEV'S HEALTH AND US-SOVIET RELATIONS -- LEAVES THE YUGOSLAVS VAGUELY UNEASY AND COMBATIVE.
EAGLEBURGER

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